

News Release

UMC Student Get Up-Close Look at Business of Cultivating Flowers

By Elizabeth Tollefson on Tuesday, April 4, 2006

CROOKSTON, MN (April 4, 2006) – From harvesting cut flowers to combating plant viruses, local university students had the opportunity to learn about what drives the commercial floriculture industry at recent visits to greenhouses and farms in Wisconsin and Lake Elmo, MN.

The University of Minnesota, Crookston (UMC) Commercial Floriculture Class took their Spring Greenhouse Tour last week to explore the growing of flowers as a crop. UMC students learned about bedding plant production in the wholesale trade at Anderson's Plant Farm, in Baldwin, WI. In Hudson, WI, the class watched the harvesting of cut flowers, growing of flowering potted plants as well as processing of bedding plants at Hermes Floral, a major Midwest supplier of floral products for both greenhouses and retail florists. The group also toured Linder's Greenhouses in Lake Elmo, MN, and heard from University of Minnesota, Twin Cities Professor Ben Lockhart regarding the Hosta Virus X that affects hostas, one of the most popular perennials grown in the Midwest and northeastern portions of the US. Hostas are perennial shade-loving plants with broad ribbed leaves and clusters of tubular white, blue or lilac flowers. Linder's has more than 110 greenhouses as well as a large outdoor growing area for more than 800 varieties of perennials and 13 million bedding plants. The tour was hosted by the MNLA (Minnesota Nursery Landscape Association) Commercial Flower Growers Committee.

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